CLAIMS

1. A powder paint composition comprising at least
(a) a thermosetting polymer having functional groups capable of reacting with β-hydroxyalkylamide units
(b) a compound comprising β-hydroxyalkylamide units and
(c) a deceleration agent, capable of reversibly blocking the functional groups of polymer (a),
wherein the deceleration agent is present in an amount sufficient to block at least 9 % of the total amount of functional groups of polymer (a).

2. A powder paint composition according to Claim 1 characterised in that the polymer (a) is a carboxylic acid functional polymer or an anhydride functional polymer.

3. A powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 1-2, characterised in that the deceleration agent (c) is a compound according to formula (III) and/or (IV):

$$YR^1R^2R^3 \qquad ((III))$$

or

$$(YR^1R^2R^3R^4)^+X^- \qquad (IV)$$

wherein:
Y is N or P,
R^1, R^2, R^3 or R^4 are independently of each other, substituted or unsubstituted carbon chains with 1-50 carbon atoms in the main chain and
X^- is halide.

4. A powder paint composition according to Claim 3 characterised in that the deceleration agent (c) is a compound according to formula (III).

5. A powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 3-4 characterised in that Y is N.

6. A powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 3-5 characterised in that R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are unsubstituted carbon chains.

7. A powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 1-6 characterised in that the deceleration agent is octyldimethylamine, decyldimethylamine, dodecyldimethylamine, tetradecyldimethylamine, hexadecyldimethylamine, octadecyldimethylamine, hydrogenated tallow alkyl)-dimethylamine and/or hexadecyldimethylamine.

8. A process for the preparation of a powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 1-7 comprising at least the steps of:

a) producing a polymer (a) having functional groups capable of reacting with β-hydroxyalkylamide units at the processing temperature Tp;

b) adding a deceleration agent (c) to the polymer at temperature Ta, wherein Ta is equal to or lower than Tp but higher than the Tg or Tm of the polymer, in an amount sufficient to block at least 9% of the functional groups of the polymer (a) capable of reacting with β-hydroxyalkylamide units.

9. A process according to Claim 8, wherein the deceleration agent is added before the polymer is cooled down to below its Tg or Tm.

10. The use of a tertiary compound according to formula (III) and/or (IV):

$YR^1R^2R^3$ ((III))

or

$(YR^1R^2R^3R^4)^+X^-$ (IV)

wherein:

Y is N or P

R^1, R^2, R^3 or R^4 are independently of each other, substituted or unsubstituted carbon chains with 1-50 carbon atoms in the main chain and

X^- is halide

as a deceleration agent in a powder paint composition comprising a β-hydroxyalkylamide compound.

11. A process for curing a powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 1-7 or a powder paint composition obtained by the process according to any one of Claims 8-9 whereby the powder paint composition is first applied to a substrate and then cured.